



Marcia Follett

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Marcia Follett

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

Position: Social Studies/Language Arts

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 8 years

Q. Why do you use a persuasive writing assignment to teach constitutional issues?

A. Eighth grade students in my Social Studies class are studying constitutional issues as part of our Classroom Based Assessments for United States history.

Students pick an issue that interests them and write a persuasive essay. Students have to state their thesis, provide background on the issue, discuss how it relates to people and cite at least four sources.

Q. How do online resources help the students?

A. We have many educational online resources for the students to help them do their research. These sources are well organized and have detailed information on the issues. There is so much information online that it can overwhelm students. Digital Learning Commons and other educational sources we have access to are very helpful and have been organized to help students make sense of the information.

Q. Does studying constitutional issues lead to good discussions?

A. This assignment helps bring real world issues to our students. Issues like abortion, teen pregnancy, capital punishment and others lead to great discussions. Students must take a stance on the issue and then defend it.

COMMENTS FROM GARRISON PRINCIPAL GINA YONTS:

"Marcia Follett is a teacher who goes above and beyond to offer fun learning experiences for her students. She is very creative and energetic in working with our 8th graders. I am impressed with her willingness to utilize technology throughout the year and to encourage students to plan for their futures! She's a gem!"

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
MARCIA FOLLETT'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM MARCIA...

I think students learn more if they have to take a stance on an issue. It pushes them to learn more about the subject and how to communicate their beliefs. As 8th grade students, they are able to use the skills they have learned and apply them to the lesson.

I really enjoy working with middle school students. They are going through so much transition. I feel we can make a difference by just listening and being there for them.



I am just amazed at how much information students have before them today. When I first started teaching I would have never dreamed this would be possible.